

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01
ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /145 W
-----050254 050553Z /13/11

R 281252Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9019
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL DURBAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5157

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CONFIDENTIAL VICE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN 200 MILE FISHING ZONE

REF: CAPE TOWN A-62 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SA GOVERNMENT GAZETTE OF SEPT. 23
CONTAINS NOTICE THAT SEA FISHERIES ACT AND TERRITORIAL
WATERS AMENDMENT ACT (REFAIR) WILL COME INTO EFFECT
NOV. 1, 1977. SEA FISHERIES ACT ESTABLISHES 200 MILE
COASTAL FISHING ZONE WITHIN WHICH ALL FOREIGN FISHING
VESSELS MUST HAVE PERMITS ISSUED BY SAG. TERRITORIAL
WATERS AMENDMENT ACT EXTENDS TERRITORIAL WATERS FROM
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SIX TO TWELVE MILES. NOTICE DISTRIBUTED TO EMBASSIES BY
DFA STATES PERMITS WOULD BE ISSUED UNDER TERMS OF
AGREEMENTS NEGOTIATED BETWEEN SAG AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.
HOEVER, NOTICE STATES CONDITION OF FISH RESOURCES IN THE
AREA IS SUCH THAT QUOTE IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO
CONSIDER GRANTING OF A PERMIT IN RESPECT OF ANY
FOREIGN VESSELS WITHIN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE FOR

FISHING DEMERSAL OR PELAGIC FISH. UNQUOTE. ON
MIGRATORY SPECIES SUCH AS TUNA AND WHALES, SAG WILL
CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS
CONCERNED BUT SAG PERMITS WILL STILL BE REQUIRED.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. DFA FISHERIES OFFICER
STATES ALL COUNTRIES WHICH CURRENTLY FISH IN AREA,
INCLUDING SOVIET UNION, HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF
IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ZONE. SAG HAS NOT RECEIVED
ANY PARTICULAR NEGATIVE REACTION FROM THESE COUNTRIES.
THUS FAR NO BILATERAL AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED
ON FISHING PERMITS ALTHOUGH JAPAN AND REPUBLIC OF
CHINA HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST.

3. EMBOFF INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS OF FISHING ZONE OFF
WALVIS BAY NOTING PRESS ARTICLES TO EFFECT WALVIS BAY
INCLUDED IN ZONE. FISHERIES OFFICER STATED THAT LAW
SPECIFIES ZONE BASED ON TERRITORY OF SOUTH AFRICA AND
SPECIFICALLY EXEMPTS SOUTHWEST AFRICA. LAW MAKES NO
SPECIFIC MENTION OF WALVIS BAY, BUT SINCE WALVIS BAY
IS PART OF REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, ZONE ALSO LEGALLY
APPLIES TO WALVIS BAY. HOWEVER, FOR TIME BEING, SAG
DOES NOT PLAN TO ENFORCE FISHING ZONE OFF WALVIS
BAY SO AS TO AVOID COMPLICATING CURRENT DELICATE
NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADDED THIS WAS DIFFICULT DECISION
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AS FISHING FLEET BASED AT WALVIS BAY IN VERY BAD
FINANCIAL SHAPE DUE TO HEAVY EXPLOITATION OF
SOUTHWEST AFRICA COASTAL FISHERIES BY FOREIGN FLEETS.

4. RE TRANSKEI, FISHERIES OFFICER SAID THAT SINCE IT
WAS NOW INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC, SOUTH AFRICAN FISHING
ZONE WOULD NOT COVER COAST OFF TRANSKEI. HE UNDERSTOOD,
HOWEVER, THAT TRANSKEI WAS PREPARING LEGISLATION TO DECLARE
200 MILE FISHING ZONE AND THIS WAS EXPECTED TO COME
INTO EFFECT EARLY IN 1978.

5. NAVAL ATTACHE HAS LEARNED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN
NAVY QUITE CONCERNED AT PROBLEM OF ENFORCING 200 MILE
FISHING ZONE AND PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS POSSIBLE
CONFRONTATION WITH SOVIETS. IF SUCH OCCURRED, NAVY
SOURCES BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE DELIBERATE MOVE BY SOVIETS
IN LIGHT OF THEIR TIGHT CONTROL OF FISHING FLEET.
INFORMATION FROM NAVY SOURCES INDICATES THAT SAG HAD
INTENDED TO ENFORCE ZONE OFF WALVIS BAY BUT NAVY HAD
COMPLAINED THAT ITS RESOURCES BARELY ADEQUATE TO POLICE
ZONE OFF SA PROPER AND RISK OF CONFRONTATION MUCH
HIGHER IN THIS AREA. END CONFIDENTIAL.

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Message Attributes

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